

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 091315Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9142

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ANKARA 3681

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJ: CENTO SEC GEN BAYULKEN INTERVIEWED IN TURKISH PRESS

1. ANKARA ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TURKISH DAILY NEWS CARRIED A TWO-PART EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CENTO SEC GEN HALUK BAYULKEN MAY 8-9. BAYULKEN REVIEWED CENTO ACTIVITIES, OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS SOME PROPOSALS HE INTENDS TO MAKE AT THE CNETO MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 21-23, AND COMMENTED ON THE EFFECT ON CENTO OF INDOCHINA AND U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

2. REGARDING THE EFFECT OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY, BAYULKEN SAID "THIS DISPUTE AND THE RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO, AND IT HAS NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH CENTO ... THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CENTO IN THIS RESPECT, AS THIS ORGANIZATION IS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY ....HOWEVER, IF THE DISPUTE CONTINUES LONGER, WE SHALL BE CONCERNED ON BEHALF OF CENTO."

3. ASKED WHETHER U.S. SETBACKS IN INDOCHINA HAD CREATED ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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"REASONS FOR CONCERN AMONG THE CENTO MEMBERS," BAYULKEN

STRESSED THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES TO HAVE "CLOSE RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND THE CENTO COUNTRIES." HE ASSERTED THAT "IT WILL BE A HASTY AND PROBABLY WRONG JUDGMENT IF WE DRAW A NEGATIVE CONCLUSION ABOUT THE FUTURE POLICY AND ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS OF THE CURRENT EVENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WILL ALSO BE WRONG TO THINK THAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOT CREATED ANY PROBLEM OR ANY NEW ELEMENT." THE SECGEN EMPHASIZED THE DOMESTIC UNPOPULARITY OF THE WAR IN INDOCHINA AND ASKED RHETORICALLY: "NOW HOW CAN A COUNTRY FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS WHEN THERE IS A BIG GAP BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT, ITS PEOPLE AND THE CONGRESS ON FOREIGN COMMITMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY?"

4. BAYULKEN SAID THAT AT THE UPCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING HE WOULD "PROPOSE THAT FROM NOW ON, THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD BE APPOINTED ON AUGUST 1, OR SEPTEMBER 1, INSTEAD OF FEBRUARY 1," BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING. HE SAID HE HAD NOW VISITED ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES AND HAD OBTAINED THEIR ENDORSEMENT FOR EXPANSION OF CENTO ACTIVITIES IN THREE AREAS: "THE FIRST THING TO DO IN THIS RESPECT IS TO MAKE MINOR CHANGES AND ADJUSTMENTS IN THE BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION. THE SECOND MEASURE WOULD BE TO INCREASE THE MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. I HAVE SEEN AND I AM CONVINCED THAT CENTO'S ACTIVITIES IN THIS SPHERE ARE PARTICULARLY VERY, VERY USEFUL. THE THIRD MEASURE CONCERNS (REGIONAL ECONOMIC) INFRASTRUCTURE. THE PROJECTS PERTAINING TO INFRASTRUCTURE HAVE BEEN NEARLY COMPLETE, BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PAST YEAR HAVE MADE IT NECESSARY TO TAKE UP THE INFRA-STRUCTURE PROJECTS ONCE AGAIN."

5. BAYULKEN EMPHASIZED THAT CENTO REMAINS ACTIVE AND USEFUL, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MILITARY COORDINATION, DESPITE A LACK OF PUBLICITY FOR THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT, WHILE HE HOPES TO EXPAND CENTO'S ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION, HE WOULD "NOT FEEL SORRY IF SOME OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE DONE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF CENTO."  
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